

KOL JESHURUN קול ישרון

The Voice of BJ This Week

B'nai Jeshurun  
בני ישרון



December 28, 2018-January 4, 2019 • 20-27 Tevet, 5779 • Shabbat Shemot

**WELCOME TO BJ!** We build our kehillah kedoshah—sacred community—with creativity and intention to present a compelling, energizing, and transformational vision of Judaism in the 21st century.

**PLEASE JOIN US:**

- **Prayer & Spirituality**
- **Limud / Learning**
- **Family Life & Learning**
- **Community Events**
- **Tzedek & Hesed / Justice & Acts of Loving-Kindness**
- **Israel Programming**

**RABBIS:** J. Rolando Matalon • Felicia L. Sol • Erin R. Glazer • Marcelo R. Bronstein

**HAZZAN:** Ari Priven

**MARSHALL T. MEYER RABBINIC FELLOWS:** Tobias Divack Moss • Margo Hughes-Robinson • Abi Weber

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:** Colin A. Weil

**SANCTUARY:** 257 West 88th Street • **OFFICE:** 270 West 89th Street, New York, NY 10024-1705  
**TEL:** 212-787-7600 • **FAX:** 212-496-7600 • **www.bj.org** • **facebook.com/bnai.jeshurun** • **Twitter:** @bjnyc

# OUR COMMUNITY

## HA-MAKOM YENAH<sup>EM</sup> / CONDOLENCES

The community of B'nai Jeshurun extends our sincere condolences to Suzanne Schecter and Todd Ruback, their son Grant, and their entire family on the death of Suzanne's mother, Harriette Rosalie Schecter.

## MAZAL TOV / CONGRATULATIONS

To the following members and their families:

- Dana and Jesse Bodine on the birth of their son, Lev Lorenzo Bodine.

## B'RUKHIM HABA'IM / WELCOME

- **Welcome to all who are visiting us for the first time!** If we haven't approached you already, come say hi to one of the rabbis, a staff member, or an usher, and we'll introduce you to the people who make BJ the warm, transformative, open place that it is.

Rabbi Erin Glazer will be taking the second portion of her maternity leave from December 10–January 13. Please join us in wishing her a meaningful time with her family.



### WHAT YOU CAN DO:

#### ● Become a Kiddush Volunteer

**Shabbat afternoons**, 12:00 noon-1:30PM, Community House 3rd Floor: Help our community become more sustainable! Volunteers will support other BJ members in learning how to dispose of their waste properly. You can volunteer on your own or with friends or family. Visit [www.bj.org/kiddushvolunteer](http://www.bj.org/kiddushvolunteer) to sign up for a slot or learn more.



### Rabbi Marshall T. Meyer: 25th Yahrzeit Anniversary

**Thursday, January 3-Saturday, January 5**

Join us as we commemorate Rabbi Marshall T. Meyer's life and work. 25 years after his death, we honor him as we continue to build on his vision for BJ. For more information, visit [www.bj.org/mtm](http://www.bj.org/mtm).

#### Thursday, January 3:

**Video Screening | 7:00PM | Sanctuary**

Join us for a screening of a video compilation of interviews and speeches given by Marshall. Following the screening there will be a conversation with members of the community about Marshall's vision, work, and legacy. Sign up at [www.bj.org/mtm](http://www.bj.org/mtm).

#### Friday, January 4:

**Kabbalat Shabbat Service | 6:15PM | Sanctuary**

M.T.M. Rabbinic Fellows join us from across the country to participate in a special Kabbalat Shabbat service on the 25th Anniversary of Rabbi Meyer's death.

#### Saturday, January 5:

**Shabbat Morning Services | 9:30AM | Sanctuary**

**Community Kiddush | Following services | Community House 3rd Floor**

**Conversation with M.T.M. Rabbinic Fellows | Following Kiddush | Sanctuary**

Join a conversation with M.T.M. Rabbinic Fellows from across the country, as they share about how Marshall's legacy is expressed in their rabbinates.

**America at Risk: Conversation with Richard Cohen, Ginna Green, and David Litt**

**4:45PM | Sanctuary**

Join us for a conversation with Richard Cohen, President of Southern Poverty Law Center, and Ginna Green of Bend the Arc-Jewish Action, moderated by David Litt, former speechwriter for President Obama and author of *Thanks, Obama: My Hopey, Changey Whitehouse Years*. Followed by havdalah. Sign up at [www.bj.org/mtm](http://www.bj.org/mtm).

# THIS WEEK AT BJ

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28

*BJ Office closed*

- **Sanctuary Centennial Exhibition** Through January, 2019, during opening hours – Community House  
This exhibition recounts the history and impact of our remarkable community, with a focus on the 100 years we have occupied the 88th Street Sanctuary. Also presented are photographs, historic documents, and personal objects which trace moment, milestones, and memories.
- **Kabbalat Shabbat Service** 6:15 PM – Sanctuary

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29

- **Shabbat Morning Services** 9:30 AM – Sanctuary
- **Family Service (0-Pre-K/K-Grade 2)** 10:45 AM – Middle & Reception Rooms
- **Community Kiddush** Following services – Community House 3rd Floor

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30

- **Morning Minyan** 9:30 AM – Chapel

## MONDAY, DECEMBER 31

*BJ Office closed*

- **Morning Minyan** 7:30 AM – Chapel

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 1 | New Year's Day

*BJ Office closed*

- **Morning Minyan** 9:30 AM – Chapel

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2

- **Morning Minyan** 7:30 AM – Chapel
- **Cooking In Hebrew: A Course in Israeli Cuisine** 11:00 AM – Frankel Hall  
Prepare traditional Israeli and Middle Eastern kosher dishes as you learn about Israel's multicultural society—and improve your Hebrew, too. No prior knowledge of Hebrew or cooking necessary. Sign up at [www.bj.org/cookinginhebrewwednesday](http://www.bj.org/cookinginhebrewwednesday).

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 3

*BJ Office closed*

- **Morning Minyan** 7:30 AM – Chapel
- **Cooking In Hebrew: A Course in Israeli Cuisine** 6:30 PM – Frankel Hall  
This class is now full.
- **Rabbi Marshall T. Meyer Shabbat: Video Screening** 7:00 PM – Sanctuary  
See panel 1 for description.

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 4

- **Morning Minyan** 7:30 AM – Chapel

**Hesed at BJ**

Do you need help getting to a doctor's visit, or to BJ services? Would you like a regular visit or phone call from a Hesed volunteer? If you or someone you know would like support, please reach out at: [hesed@bj.org](mailto:hesed@bj.org).

## WHAT'S NEXT

### ● **Israeli Art and Culture Salon Series**

**Sunday, January 6**, 5:00-7:00PM, location given upon registration: In this six-part series, BJ members will meet promising Israeli artists working in New York in an intimate, home setting. The first session will feature musician Tali Rubenstein and multidisciplinary artist Milcah Bassel. Sign up at [www.bj.org/israelsalonspring2019](http://www.bj.org/israelsalonspring2019).

### ● **Shirah with Shira—Spring Semester**

**Tuesdays, January 8-May 21**, 4:00-4:45PM, Community House: Shira Averbuch will lead children and their parents/caregivers in music, stories, and movement. For more information and to register, visit [www.bj.org/springshirah](http://www.bj.org/springshirah).

### ● **Baby Fingers at BJ (Winter)**

**Wednesdays, January 9-February 13**, 3:30-4:30PM, Middle Room: Learn American Sign Language through song and play with other parents, educators, and children close to your child's age. This six-session series costs \$120 for members, \$180 for non-members. Register now at [www.bj.org/babyfingerswinter2019](http://www.bj.org/babyfingerswinter2019).

### ● **The Spiritual State of Being a Woman in America**

**Thursday, January 10; February 7**, 7:00-8:30PM, Community House: Join Rabbi Felicia Sol for an exploration of how we can turn to religious life for support, while also acknowledging the patriarchy in religion. For more information and to sign up, visit [www.bj.org/womaninamerica](http://www.bj.org/womaninamerica).

### ● **Spring Bim Bam**

**Fridays, January 11-May 17**, 10:15-11:00AM, 11:15AM-12:00PM, Chapel: Bim Bam gives children under 3 a space to explore Shabbat through songs and stories. The 10:15AM session features English and Hebrew, while the 11:15AM session is full Hebrew immersion. For more information, visit [www.bj.org/springbimbam](http://www.bj.org/springbimbam).

### ● **Family Shabbat Dinner: Tu Bishvat is Going Tu BGreat**

**Friday, January 11**, following Kabbalat Shabbat Services, Chapel: Join us for great food, better company, and fun games for children and adults alike as we prepare to celebrate the Jewish birthday of the trees. Register by Monday, January 7, at [www.bj.org/tubishvatshabbat](http://www.bj.org/tubishvatshabbat).

### ● **LiteraTorah: Yiddish Troubadors and Modern Midrash in Memory of Shira Palmer Sherman**

**Sunday, January 12**, 4:30PM, Sanctuary: Dara Horn will explore the intersection between Yiddish theater tradition and biblical stories, with an emphasis on Yiddish comic poet Itzik Manger and his reimagining of Torah stories in a modern context. No prior knowledge of Yiddish or Torah required. Sign up now at [www.bj.org/danahornsteaching](http://www.bj.org/danahornsteaching).

### ● **Haleli Nafshi: Communal Singing and Havdalah**

**Saturday, January 12**, 4:45PM, Chapel: Join us for our monthly gathering as we spend the final moments of Shabbat together, singing beautiful niggunim and zemirot as Havdalah approaches. Please bring a vegetarian snack and/or drink to share. No registration necessary.

### ● **Economic Justice Hevra Meeting**

**Tuesday, January 15**, 6:45PM, Middle Room: Get involved in the Justice for Farmworkers Campaign. Together we will expand understanding of ethical consumption and ensure farm laborers get the dignity and equality they deserve. To R.S.V.P., contact Lisa at [lisagzucker@gmail.com](mailto:lisagzucker@gmail.com).

### ● **"Soul Food" Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Felicia Sol**

**Tuesdays, January 15-June 18**, 12:30-1:45PM, Middle Room: Bring a bag lunch and join Rabbi Felicia Sol as we re-imagine old world wisdom for everyday life. Each class stands alone, so new participants are always welcome. No prior knowledge required. Register now at [www.bj.org/soulfood2019](http://www.bj.org/soulfood2019).

## WHAT'S NEXT *continued from panel 3*

### ● **Lift Your Voice: An Exploration of Shabbat Zemirot**

**Thursday, January 17, 7:00-8:30PM**, Middle Room: Join Cantor David Mintz for an exploration of Shabbat zemirot—the table songs traditionally sung at Shabbat meals. Learn new melodies, refresh familiar ones, and explore beautiful poetry; all while building the tools to enhance your own Shabbat table! No registration necessary.

---

## WHAT'S LATER

### ● **The Journey Towards Freedom: A Shabbat Shirah Concert with Nicole Phifer and Friends**

**Saturday, January 19, 7:00PM**, Sanctuary: Join us for an evening of uplifting song with gospel artist Nicole Phifer. Journeying through narrative of the Exodus, we'll explore the themes of Shabbat Shirah as seen in the gospel musical tradition. Register now at [www.bj.org/nicolephiperconcert](http://www.bj.org/nicolephiperconcert).

### ● **Bridging the Gap House Parties**

**Various dates beginning January 23**, various times and locations on the UWS: BJ members, join us for a Bridging the Gap house party, where MCO exchange participants will share their reflections and guide a conversation on how to integrate the learnings into our own lives. Sign up now at [www.bj.org/bridgingthegap](http://www.bj.org/bridgingthegap).

### ● **The Soap Myth: Concert Reading**

**Wednesday, January 23, 7:00-9:00PM**, Sanctuary: See BJ member and multiple Emmy and Tony Award nominee Tovah Feldshuh star with multiple Emmy and Golden Globe Award winner Ed Asner in a concert reading of Jeff Cohen's play *The Soap Myth*. Buy tickets at [www.bj.org/soapmyth](http://www.bj.org/soapmyth).

### ● **7th Grade Trip to Washington D.C.**

**Friday, February 8-Sunday, February 10**, Washington, D.C.: This 7th grade trip will explore what it means to live a full Jewish life in light of our modern history and current events. Contact Ayala (x244) with any questions. Register by Monday, January 7, at [www.bj.org/7thgradedctrip](http://www.bj.org/7thgradedctrip).

### ● **College Student Eastern European Exploration**

**Tuesday, June 11-Monday, June 17**, Berlin, Germany, and Prague, Czech Republic: Join fellow BJ college students for an Eastern European tour, including the towering spires of the Old City in Prague, Czech Republic, and the bustling creativity of Berlin, Germany. For more information and to register, visit [www.bj.org/collegeteurope](http://www.bj.org/collegeteurope).

### **The 2018 Kol Nidre Partnership Appeal**

We are getting closer to our goal every day and we need YOU! If you have made your gift, thank you! If you haven't yet made your gift: our collective work, plans, and dreams are only realized when each and every BJ member does their part by supporting us financially. Help us remain firmly rooted and reaching upward in the unique and special way that is BJ through your participation in the Kol Nidre Partnership Appeal. Make your gift before the end of the year and help us shape the future we hope for in 2019. Make your pledge now at [www.bj.org/kolnidreappeal](http://www.bj.org/kolnidreappeal).

We are happy to share BJ's services with those unable to attend in person through automated recording and livestreaming, available on our website and on our YouTube channel. The camera will be focused on the bimah and areas in front of the Ark. Your presence in those areas indicates your consent to your image appearing on the livestream. Tune in live—and to watch previously streamed services and programs—at [www.bj.org/live](http://www.bj.org/live).

# A TASTE OF TORAH: SHABBAT SHEMOT

וַיְהִי, כִּי-יִרְאוּ הַמִּיּוֹלָדֹת אֶת-הָאֱלֹהִים; וַיַּעַשׂ לָהֶם, בְּתִים.

“And it came to pass, because the midwives feared God, that God built for them houses.”

—Exodus 1:21

On a night like this one  
When bellies swelled along with the moon  
And hearts flipped over  
As breached children  
As days flipped over a calendar set by gods who did not know their names  
As generations rolled over to kings who pretended they had never heard of their fathers and uncles and brothers

Mothers before them  
They sat before birthing stools  
Knew themselves to be two before One—and in this mother wrestled two great ones—  
So gently, beautiful bleating fingers beseeched despite a river of blood  
Beckoned back through narrow straits  
Back to a pit without any water in it  
To tie a red string around a single grasping arm  
“Modot anahnu lefanakh...”  
Keep twisting and turning  
Wait for your Name  
And you, wait for your God

And soon more women hurried in  
As women go down amongst the women  
They gathered in houses  
Together singing words carried for centuries  
For singing down rain  
For singing the long presumed dead back to life  
For singing axe-heads, electrum, old bones, and babies up out of rivers of pain

And all at once  
The sea splits  
The river turns to reeds  
And twin daughters  
God and People  
Are borne out to face one another again on a beach of interwoven hands  
Crying out “Who is like You, Oh Beloved?”

— Margo Hughes-Robinson

## TORAH PORTION

### SHEMOT

<b>Torah: Annual</b>	Exodus 1:1 - 6:1
<b>Triennial</b>	Genesis 4:18 - 6:1
1:	4:18 - 4:20
2:	4:21 - 4:26
3:	4:27 - 4:31
4:	5:1 - 5:5
5:	5:6 - 5:9
6:	5:10 - 5:14
7:	5:15 - 6:1
Maftir:	5:22 - 6:1

**Haftarah** Isaiah 27:6 - 28:13, 29:22 - 29:23

### NEXT WEEK: VAERA

<b>Torah: Annual</b>	Exodus 6:2 - 9:35
<b>Triennial</b>	Exodus 8:16 - 9:15
<b>Haftarah</b>	Ezekiel 28:25 - 29:21

Coffee not delivering its usual zing? **Come to morning minyan** and get a spiritual jolt to start your day. Develop a daily Jewish practice, meet new people in an intimate setting, and help us make a minyan so our members can say kaddish for their loved ones. **Visit [www.bj.org/minyan](http://www.bj.org/minyan).**

 Printed on Recycled Paper

**BJ RECYCLES AND COMPOSTS.** Please look for bins throughout our spaces. BJ’s Ner Tamid at the BJ Sanctuary is powered by the energy of the sun.

